

Mr. Speaker, I commend "A Question of Murder" to the House and ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

A QUESTION OF MURDER

I'm a little confused regarding some people's stand on murder; specifically the murder of defenseless children.

The nation, perhaps the world, is horrified and incensed over the killing of the little Smith boys. To learn that the killer was their own mother was almost more than all of us could bear. Many were, and still are, threatening to murder her!

Here is where I'm confused: (1) Where are the "Women's Rights" groups? (2) Where are the "Freedom of Choice" groups? (3) Where is the politically powerful "ACLU"?

Mrs. Smith could use your support during the terrifying, lonely time in her life. Mrs. Smith could use some of the ACLU's legal backing.

After all, her side of the story is not different now than it would have been five years and seven or eight months ago—or even as recently as nineteen or twenty months ago: these babies were interfering with the life style she wished to follow. They were a nuisance. They were fathered by a man she didn't love. (A little like "rape", don't you agree?)

So I ask all the "Rights" groups, "Where are you now?"

Before these little boys were given names and toys and birthday parties, you would have pounded your fists on your podiums and shouted obscenities at anyone who would dare to say she did not have the "right" to take their "right to live" away from them.

Where is your courage to defend her now? Nothing has really changed. Those little boys hearts were beating in their mother's womb every bit as strongly as they were in the cold "womb" of that car's back seat. Their cries for help would have been as soundless in her womb as they were in that sinking car.

The only difference between this murder and the murder of abortion is the sweet defenseless babies killed in the mothers womb drown in the amniotic fluid. These sweet, defenseless little boys drowned in the fluid of a cold, murky lake.

So I ask, "In cases such as these, exactly whose "Rights" have been wronged?"

DANIEL NELSON, VETERAN
TEACHER EARNS IMPORTANT
SCIENCE AWARD

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, right after the election I heard some great news about a gifted teacher in our 22d Congressional District, and I looked forward to this opening day of the 104th Congress to share it with you.

Daniel A. Nelson, technology teacher in the Shenendehowa Central School District, was named Environmental Science Teacher of the Year by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

The award is really no surprise to many of Mr. Nelson's former students, many of whom have gone on to distinguished engineering or science careers. Not is it a surprise to anyone else who knows him that he was quick to share the glory, indeed, to bestow it all, on his students. Dan Nelson has been a selfless, dedicated teacher at Shenendehowa for 26

years, and he's one of the reasons the school is recognized as one of the best in the Northeast.

Those of us who struggled through science courses in high school can appreciate a teacher who makes science courses come alive. That's what Dan Nelson has been doing for a long time, and that's why he is such a deserving recipient of this major award.

He has found a way to get students to apply their math and science skills in a hand-on manner, and to solve problems in a creative way. Many of his students have won State awards for projects assisted and inspired by Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Speaker, let us today add our own tribute to this remarkable teacher, Daniel A. Nelson of the Shenendehowa Central School District.

THE VOTING RIGHTS OF HOMELESS CITIZENS ACT OF 1995

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as the 104th Congress convenes today, I am pleased to introduce the Voting Rights of Homeless Citizens Act of 1995. The purpose of this legislation is to enable the homeless, who are citizens of this country, to vote. This bill would remove the legal and administrative barriers that inhibit them from exercising that right. No one should be excluded from registering to vote simply because they don't have a home. But in many States, the homeless are left out. That is not right. That is not fair. That is not the way of this country.

During this century, we have removed major obstacles that prevented many of our citizens from voting. Not too long ago, people had to pay a poll tax or own property to vote. Women and minorities were prohibited from casting the ballot.

Before the civil rights movement, there were areas in the South where 50 to 80 percent of the population was black. Yet, there was not a single registered black voter. In 1964, three young men in rural Mississippi gave their lives while working to register people to vote. Many people shedded blood and many died to secure voting rights protection for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very fitting to introduce this bill today because 30 years ago today, on January 4, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson proposed that we "eliminate every remaining obstacle to the right and opportunity to vote." Eight months later, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law, making it possible for millions of Americans to enter the political process.

Our Nation has made progress. But we still have a long way to go to make sure that every citizen is properly represented on Capitol Hill, in the State house, on the city council and on the county commission. I have dedicated my life to ensuring that every American is treated equally and that everyone has the right to register and vote. I ask my colleagues to join me in opening the political process to every American, even those without a home. I urge my colleagues in the House to join with me in cosponsoring and supporting passage of the Voting Rights of Homeless Citizens Act of 1995.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will help to significantly improve the standard of health care provided for our nation's veterans, specifically those residing in South Texas.

This bill authorizes the establishment of a new veterans' medical facility in South Texas. Under the provisions of the bill, the Administrator of the Veterans' Administration (VA) is granted the authority to acquire and construct a medical facility on a suitable site in the Rio Grande Valley in order to more effectively deliver needed medical services to the growing number of South Texas veterans. I am honored that Congressman DE LA GARZA and Congressman TEJEDA, a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, are also original cosponsors of this bill.

While significant strides are being made in improving both the quality of health care and medical facilities available to our nation's veterans, significant shortfalls still exist in certain areas. The combination of the growing number of patients served by South Texas VA facilities along with the demographic "aging" of the veteran population is leading to a situation where existing medical facilities are being stretched beyond capacity. Already, patient usage of the VA medical facilities in South Texas has increased. Additionally, the number of elderly veterans in the State of Texas continues to grow, as does their need for medical care. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that South Texas also receives a steady number of elderly veterans who annually reside in South Texas during the winter months due to the warm climate.

The overburdened state of the veterans' health care system in South Texas becomes apparent when veterans from the Rio Grande Valley, in particular from my District, must travel over 10 hours to reach the closest Veterans' Administration hospital. A number of these veterans are physically incapable of driving these distances, and many do not have family members to transport them to these facilities.

Our nation's veterans deserve the finest health care services available, and the creation of a medical facility in the Rio Grande Valley will be a significant and much needed step towards meeting this obligation. The construction of a medical facility in South Texas is the first step in addressing the critical health care needs of veterans in South Texas.

BRONCHIO-ALVEOLAR CARCINOMA LEGISLATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation that will

add bronchio-alveolar carcinoma to the list of diseases which the VA presumes to be service connected. This bill is identical to legislation I offered last year (H.R. 4156).

Bronchio-alveolar carcinoma is a rare form of nonsmokers' lung cancer which strikes otherwise healthy individuals for no known reason. In 1981, it took the life of Thomas McCarthy, a veteran who was a navigator aboard the U.S.S. *McKinley* during his time in the U.S. Navy in the 1950's.

In 1955, the *McKinley* was one of several ships to take part in Operation Wigwam, a secret Navy experiment which tested the effects of an atomic detonation under the ocean floor. The blast produced a mist which enveloped the ships on mission and their crewmen. The Navy refused to even acknowledge the test until 1979, and they still refuse to make public the dangers that the mist produced.

After Mr. McCarthy's death, his widow Joan applied for benefits through the VA. Unfortunately, she was consistently turned down despite the plethora of information she continued to unearth which confirmed that her husband's death was a direct result of his service connection.

I became involved with Mrs. McCarthy's case in 1986 and have been trying to persuade the VA to administratively include bronchio-alveolar carcinoma on the presumed service-connected list. Unfortunately, these requests have been rebuffed. I have been told that the only way to get this done is through legislation.

Last year, VA Secretary Jesse Brown promised me that the Department will support my efforts to pass this legislation. With Secretary Brown's help and as vice chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, I will be working with my colleagues on the committee to ensure that the bill is brought up quickly and passed.

We have held hearings on this matter. I have met personally with Secretary Brown to urge action. The time for talking and debating is over. It is clear that this matter needs to be resolved and the time for action is now.

Joan McCarthy, and the few other veterans who suffer from this mysterious cancer and their families, deserve justice. I urge all my colleagues to strongly support this measure.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, Americans will be celebrating the national holiday which honors one of our great patriots and moral leaders, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reverend King was taken from us prematurely over a quarter century ago, at far too young an age, in one of the most heartless, senseless, and destructive crimes in our national history. It is difficult for us to recognize that if his life had not been so tragically snuffed out, Dr. King would be only 66 years old on his birthday this month.

Although the life of Martin Luther King was cut short, his message is eternal and will long outlive all of us here today. The simple truth that Dr. King worked so hard to make us all

recognize is that hatred actually harms the hater more than the hated. The evils of racial injustice, which were a blot on the record of our Nation for far too long, harmed the economy, the morals, and the advancement of white America just as much as it did Black America. The terrible legacy of Jim Crowism and continued racial discrimination which plagued us for well after a 100 years of the Emancipation Proclamation harmed us all, for they not only prevented all Americans from enjoying the full benefits of our society, they also prevented us all from reaping the benefits of the contributions all Americans are capable of making.

By no means should the celebration of Martin Luther King Day be taken as a celebration that we have achieved all we can. In fact, the legacy of racial division and hatred continues to plague us today, in many ways, day after day. No American can truly be satisfied until after all of the barriers of prejudice in our society are removed.

Yet, we can be inspired by the words of Dr. King, who stated: "If you can't fly, run. If you can't walk, crawl. By all means, keep on moving."

Martin Luther King Day is an appropriate time for all Americans to remember that we must continue to move, until the day when all of us are afforded full opportunity, and that none of us have to be concerned that race, color, creed, or ethnic heritage are a hindrance to any individual, or to our Nation as a whole.

Let us free ourselves from hatred, as Dr. King urged, so that we can share the dream he so eloquently shared with all in August of 1963—a dream that some day the descendants of slaves and the descendants of slave holders can sit down and join hands together at the table of brotherhood and proclaim: "Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, we're free at last."

INTRODUCTION OF OVERSIGHT LEGISLATION ON PENSION PLAN TERMINATION INSURANCE

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, as we continue this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 [ERISA], I want to bring attention to the termination insurance program administered by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation [PBGC]. The PBGC was created in 1974 under ERISA Title IV in order to guarantee the private pension benefits of employees and retirees in the event their company goes bankrupt and leaves their pension plans less than fully funded.

Even though the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] legislation enacted last year included significant reforms of the PBGC termination insurance program, I believe it is essential that we closely monitor how these changes affect defined benefit pension plans and the goals set forth under ERISA for the PBGC. It might also be noted that the changes to PBGC included in GATT only affected the single-employer plan programs and not the multiemployer program.

Over the last few years, a number of reform proposals have been introduced, including recommendations from the Bush administration, the Clinton administration, some of which were enacted in GATT, and others introduced by former-Representative Jake Pickle. With the passage of PBGC reform in GATT, my Subcommittee on Employee-Employer Relations and the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities will take a strong interest in closely monitoring the PBGC program. To aid the committee in its oversight of the PBGC termination insurance program, we are today reintroducing past proposals which address both the single-employer and multiemployer defined benefit pension programs. We want to look at these ongoing termination insurance programs in light of these suggestions, the actual changes included in GATT, as well as other suggestions that we are now asking interested parties to bring to the committee's attention.

While our introduction today of past proposals, and the introduction in the future of the other proposals that come to our attention, does not constitute endorsement of any particular approach, we think that the various provisions contained in such proposals can serve as a valuable tool to assess the progress and effectiveness of the termination insurance programs administered by the PBGC.

The role of defined benefit pension plans and the operation of the title IV termination insurance programs administered by the PBGC constitute important elements of the retirement income security component of our Nation's private pension system. Given our committee's historic jurisdiction over employee benefits under ERISA, I think it imperative that we pay close attention to the status of the programs administered by the PBGC and take a long-term view as to how those features of the current law and other proposals will help ensure the long-term soundness of the defined benefit pension system.

The Subcommittee on Employee-Employer Relations of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities also welcomes comments and suggestions regarding the oversight of other aspects of the ERISA pension, health, and other employee benefit programs under its purview.

THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM REFORM ACT OF 1995

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reintroduce the National Park Reform Act of 1995. Except for three small changes, this bill is identical to H.R. 4476, which passed the House by a vote of 421 to 0 last year.

Over the past few months, my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN], has generated a great deal of comment in the West by suggesting that some of the Nation's 368 national parks are not worthy of being in the Park System and that, perhaps, we should look at unloading some of them. His suggestion has not been entirely well received and he is now being charged with trying to destroy the Park System. But, to play the devil's advocate, hasn't he got a point?